

[18 August, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

not be necessary as they are already required to indicate the "Use before" or expiry date.

Improving Health Infrastructure

2844. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to provide better health facilities to the people in the country;

(b) whether Government proposes to privatise major hospitals in the country for the purpose; and

(c) what other steps are being taken to improve health infrastructure in the country, both in rural and urban areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) Government is continuously taking measures to provide better health facilities to the people in the country.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Creating health infrastructure for providing health care in rural/urban areas is the responsibility of the State Governments. A vast network of rural health infrastructure has been established throughout the country to provide preventive, promotive and curative health care in rural areas. However, Central Government has been making every effort to mobilise substantial resources from bilateral/ multilateral agencies for intensifying the implementation of National Health Programmes namely, the control of HIV/AIDS, Malaria, T.B., Leprosy, Blindness and promotion of Reproductive and Child Health. Besides, for upgrading the rural hospitals in selected States, World Bank assistance has been availed of, which would further improve delivery of health services.

Sale of Blood by IRCS

2845. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item